

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION

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July 11, 1997

To: Delta Protection Commission

From: Margit Aramburu, Executive Director

Subject: Update on Big Break, Contra Costa County Shoreline

Background:

In January, I reported on a January meeting with East Bay Regional Park District staff and Department of Fish and Game staff. At that time the following items were discussed:

1. Plans for future uses at Big Break: There is no plan at this time and no plan is being prepared. At the time a plan is developed for future uses at Big Break, there will be notice and opportunity for public participation. Preliminary concepts are to retain the area in its current physical state, with minimal improvements along the shoreline itself, such as a shoreline trail, fishing access, access to the beach behind existing residential development, etc.
2. Ownership of Lands at Big Break: EBRPD owns the eastern half of the water areas and adjacent shoreline areas at Big Break (acquired in October 1995). No additional lands have been acquired.
3. Construction of Facilities (Boardwalks, Paths, etc.): No facilities are being constructed at Big Break. No facilities will be constructed until a plan is prepared. A shoreline trail has been built south and east of Big Break on the levee adjacent to the Emerson Dairy property.
4. Delta Science Center: EBRPD is participating in planning and fundraising for the Delta Science Center, a proposed education center. The proposed site for the Center is on Ironhouse Sanitary District Property.

5. Hunting from the Shoreline: EBRPD does not allow hunting from its LANDS. Thus, EBRPD will not allow hunting from the shoreline/lands in its ownership at Big Break. Any blinds found on the shoreline or attached to the shoreline will be removed.
6. Hunting from Boats: EBRPD will allow hunting from a boat on water-covered areas, in conformance with all State laws. NOTE: There is no hunting allowed within 150 yards of an occupied dwelling.
7. Hunting from Floating Blinds: EBRPD has set up a meeting with duck hunters on February 12, 1997 at 7:00 p.m. in the Antioch Police Department's public room. EBRPD position at this time is to allow hunting from floating blinds; "permanent" blinds (attached by pilings into the mud) will not be allowed. The meeting is intended to flesh out other questions that may arise regarding floating blinds.

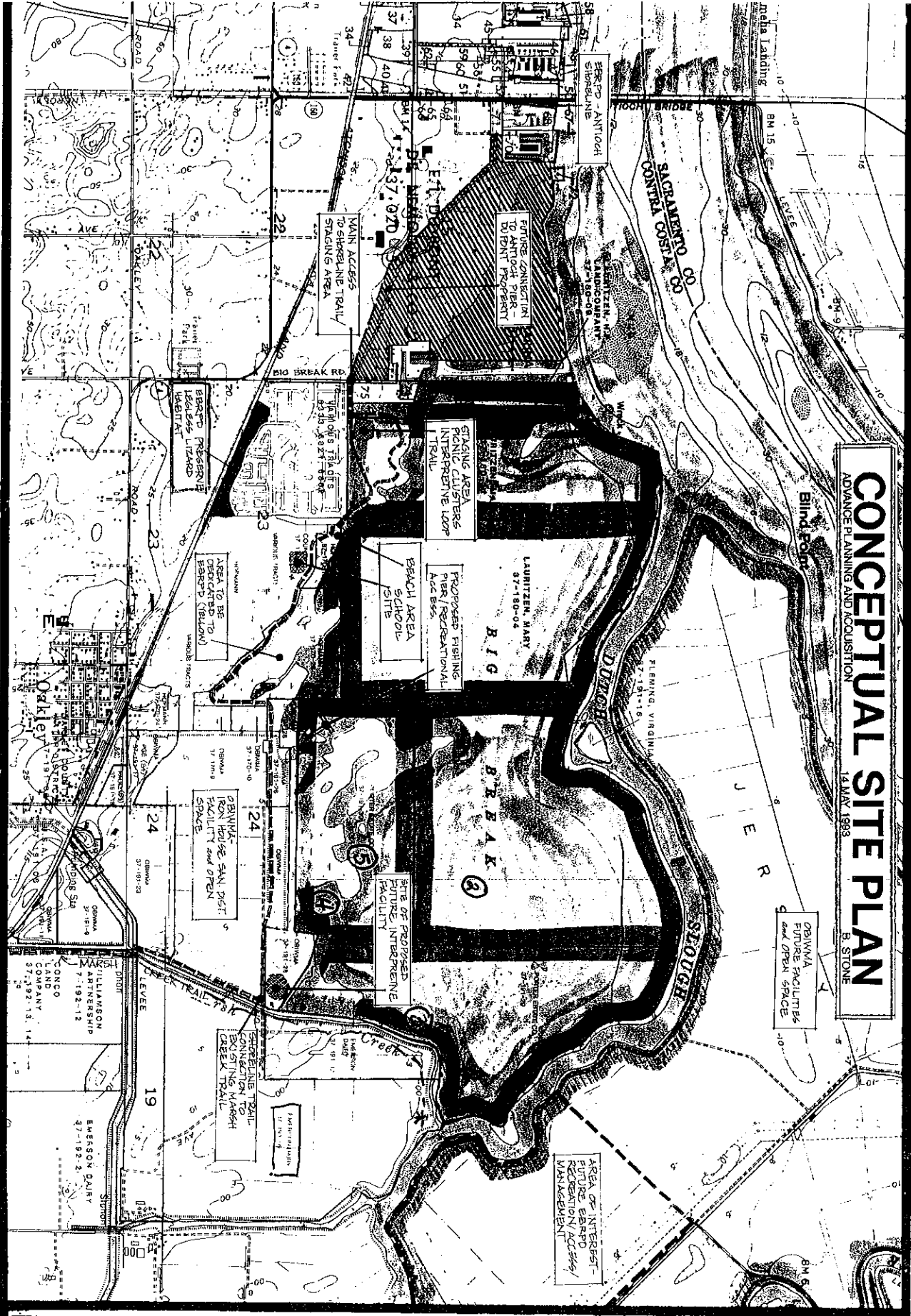
July Meeting:

There was very limited attendance at the February 12, 1997 meeting, so a second meeting to discuss the future of the existing duck blinds at Big Break was scheduled for Wednesday, July 2, 1997. In attendance were EBRPD staff, Chuck Dahl representing the Big Break duck hunters, and Commissioner Robert Calone. At that meeting the following items were discussed:

1. No hunting or shooting is allowed on EBRPD **lands**.
2. No illegal hunting is allowed on EBRPD lands.
3. Legal hunting on water-covered areas from a boat or from a floating blind will be allowed to continue at Big Break.
4. Floating blinds must float and not be attached to the underwater lands by pilings, only by anchors.
5. EBRPD staff has not identified any problem allowing the existing limited number of existing blinds (never more than six, currently four) to be stored on the edge of the Big Break water areas during the off-season. This will be

reviewed with legal staff.

6. The duck hunters, Commissioner Calone, and the Delta Protection Commission will be notified of any future planning activities in or around Big Break, such as the Delta Environmental Center or any new walkway.



CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN

ADVANCE PLANNING AND ACQUISITION
14 MAY 1998
B. STONE

**DELTA SHORELINE
BIG BREAK /
JERSEY ISLAND VICINITY**

East Bay
Regional Park District